

Message Text

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70/53

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 MC-02 AID-20 ACDA-19 PM-07

NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00

PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 NIC-01 DRC-01 /158 W

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R 031400Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1299

INFO DIA

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 06393

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR DOWNGRADING INSTRUCTIONS

GDS VICE N/A

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, PE

SUBJECT: PERU DISPLAYS STRENGTH AT INDEPENDENCE DAY MILITARY
PARADE

REF: IR 6 876 0141 74 (NOTAL)

1. REFERENCED IR REPORTED ON JULY 29 INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE
DURING WHICH PERUVIAN ARMED FORCES DISPLAYED THEIR STRENGTH AND
LATEST ACQUISITIONS. ACCORDING TO PERUVIAN IMES, THIS WAS
"AN UNPRECEDENTED PARADE OF MANPOWER AND WEAPONS."

2. PERU EXHIBITED FOR FIRST TIME 54 SOVIET T-55 TANKS LEADING
THE EMBASSY TO REVISE UPWARDS ITS ESTIMATE OF SOVIET TANKS IN
PERU. WE NOW BELIEVE THAT PERU HAS ABOUT 150 SUCH TANKS, MOST
OF WHICH ARE LOCATED NEAR AREQUIPA. THERE ARE UNCONFIRMED
REPORTS THAT PERU MAY HAVE BOUGHT AS MANY AS 220 SOVIET TANKS.

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3. THE PRESENTATION OF EIGHT TRUCK-MOUNTED SURFACE -TO-AIR

MISSILES OF POSSIBLY SWEDISH ORIGIN PROVED TO BE THE MAJOR
SURPRISE OF THE PARADE. UP UNTIL THE PARADE, THE EMBASSY DID
NOT KNOW ABOUT THE EXISTENCE OF THESE SAMS.

4. COMMENT: THE PERUVIAN ARMED FORCES MARCHED WELL DEMONSTRATING
DISCIPLINE AND STRENGTH. THEY ALSO PROVED THAT THEY KNOW HOW
TO KEEP A SECRET. THE MILGOV CLEARLY WANTED TO
FLEX ITS MUSCLES IN ORDER TO SHOW A PROUD ARMED FORCES ABLE TO
COW DOMESTIC OPPONENTS AND DETER WOULD-BE FOREIGN ENEMIES.
DEAN

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